1798.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

-AT THE--

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

..OF THE ..

TOWN OF FAYSTON, VERMONT.

INCLUDING SHORT BIOGRAPHIES,

Mrs. Anna Bixby Brage

. Tr 1898.



Residence of J. B. Thompson, and first house built in Fayston, also lawn where Centennial Celebration was held September 16, 1898.

HISTORICAL ADDRESS.

FAYSTON is an irregularly outlined township, bounded on the N. by Duxbury, E, by Waitsfield, S, by Warren and Lincoln, W, by Huntington and Buels Gore, and is 20 miles from Montpelier. It has an elevated position; the land lies in large swells, except along Mill brook and Shepherd's brook where there is some intervale. Mill brook rises in the southern part of the town, in a locality known for miles around as "Pigeon Hollow." It was so named from the myriads of pigeons which nested there in 1849. Shepherd's brook rises in and runs through the northern part of the town. It received its name from a hunter who caught beavers from a beaver meadow on this stream. Many trees on the banks were cut down by these animals. Both of these streams empty into Mad River in Waitsfield. Deer yards were frequently found on the slopes of the hills. The early settlers used to hunt them when the snow was so deep that they could not escape. Sable were quite abundant. Ezra Meach of Shelburne, passed through the town in 1800, setting his line of traps, and blazed trees along his route. Bears and wolves were very common, doing much damage in cornfields and sheep-folds, and the panther or lynx was sometimes seen. In 1826 a beautiful doe was run down Shepherd's brook, to an open eddy near Jason Carpenter's, out of reach of the dogs. Judge Carpenter caught it in his arms, and seven or eight hunters coming up just then, he told them that they could not have the doe, but that each one of them might go and select a sheep from his flock. But this did not satisfy the blood thirsty hunters, and seizing the deer by main force they killed it on the spot.

There is much good water power in this town, and many clapboard and saw mills give remunerative employment to our people. These will be noticed elsewhere.

Owing to its natural conformation of surface, Fayston has no large village, with its stores, halls and churches, but the inhabitants in the southern part find access to business and postoffice in Waitsfield, while those in the northern part find it quite convenient to go to Moretown. There are many fine dairies in town; very many sugar orchards, and the best quality of maple syrup and sugar is made, which brings a handsome income to the farmers.

Fayston was chartered Feb. 27, 1792 to Ebenezer Walbridge and his associates. The charter was signed by Governor Thomas Chittenden. The town was named from Joseph Fay who was then secretary of State. It was first settled by Lynde Wait in 1798. He built the first house just where the attractive home of J. B. Thompson now stands. Just a little southeast of us the first school-house was erected. Near by was the training reround.

The town was organized Aug. 6. 1805. James Wait was the first town clerk; Thomas Green the first constable; and Lynde Wait, Rufus Barrett and William Williams the first selectmen. In 1800 there were 18 persons in town; Lucia Wait, born in 1801, was the first schild born in town. Thomas Griswold Wait Farr was the first male child born in town, for which fact he received a lot of land from Griswold Wait.

Previous to 1810 the children were taught in private houses. Then the town was organized into one school district. From complete, original records at hand, we give a copy of the warning for a school meeting called by the selectmen:

"This is to notify and warn the inhabitants of the first school district in Fayston to assemble and meet at the dwelling house of Lynde Wait in said district, on the 12 day of November next—at 4 o'clock P. M. then and there to act on the following articles (viz.) first to choose a moderator to govern said meeting, 2nd., to choose a district clerk and other District officers.

Dated at Fayston the 29th day of October 1810.

ERASTUS ALLEN, Selectmen."

The school meeting was holden according to date, and officers elected as follows:

Rufus Barrett, moderator; Rufus Barrett, district clerk; Lynde Wait, Joseph Wilder and Rufus Barret, chosen committee for said district, and sworn; and Leonard Brigham was chosen collector and

The next school meeting was warned to meet in just seventeen days, at the same place.

This was the second school meeting in town, and they "voted to build a school house and set it a few rods southeast of Lynde Wait's dwelling house." "Voted to try to build said house by subscription and the following sums were subscribed as set to our names severally:

Lynde Wait, Rufus Barrett Thos. Green, Junior, Benjamin Lampson Philemon Whitcomb Samuel Richardson Benj. Richardson Elisha Green	\$ 23 10 12 5 14 5 10	Gershom & L. Brigham Stephen Griggs David Randall Wm. Newcomb Thos. L. Youngs Joseph Wilder David Selleck Charles B. Colt	ş	15 8 5 12 5 15 21
	\$ 84		\$	91 84

Total.

\$ 175

Voted to bulld said house 22 feet long and 18 feet wide and have it done by the first of July next; and then adjourned to meet at the same place in five days or Dec. 3, for the purpose of "contracting with some person to build the house." Dec. 3, 1810. "The school house set up at vendue, and bid off by Thomas L. Youngs to be well built by the 1st day of July for \$ 159.75."

The third school meeting was holden Nov. 25, 1811. After electing officers, it was "vorted that the district will have a school kept three months this winter. Voted to raise one and a half cents on the dollar on the list of 1811 of the inhabitants of said district to defray the expenses of said school; with other money, said tax of one and a half cents is to be paid in grain or flax by the first of March next. Voted that the district will not accept the school house as built by Mr. Thomas L. Youngs. Voted that Joseph Wilder, David Selleck and Lyade Wait be appointed to see Mr. Youngs respecting the finishing of the house, and accept the school when they think it is dun according to contract."

LYNDE WAIT, District Clerk.

From the records we learn that school was taught only three months each year and that in the winter, supported by tax on the list, and the tax was from one and one half cents to three cents on the dollar of the list, paid in grain, up to the year 1817; then the tax was two cents, and was to be paid in wheat, delivered at the school house Feb. 1st. In November 1819, after raising a tax of two cents, they also "voted that each one board the master in proportion to the number of scholars he sends." Also "voted that each one get two-thirds of a cord of wood per scholar, and on forfeiture thereof pay \$1.00 per cord.

This custom of providing for board and wood was followed about forty years. As they then kept fires in an open fire place, we may easily believe the amount of wood and price was none too high. In March 1826 it was voted to move the school house to the junction of the roads between Elisha Brigham's and Benjamin Gilson's, "and have a stove in lieu of a chimney, in said house. In 1831 the school house was again moved, to the junction of the roads near Calvin Felletron's," now Patrick Smith's residence. This was a central location, in the edge of a beautiful maple grove. Ten years later the old school house no longer worth repairing, a new one was built on the same site, where it still remains. The old one was sold to the highest bidder and converted into a dwelling house. The new one was 24432 feet in size, and Calvin Fullerton, Carlton Richardson and J. C. Griggs were the building committee. We find on the records this item of book keeping by Calvin Fullerton, Calric.

House cost, Stove pipe, \$ 225 41 Tax raised, 3 67 Old house at

The tax raised on the grand list was 30 cents on a dollar.

When completed it was called by good judges, including the State superintendent, one of the best in the county. It is the one we now use, though it was repaired and remodelled in 1870.

Religious services were always held in these school houses in the early years, and Sabbath schools and a temperance society was formed about the year 1830.

We will now give a brief history of some of the early pioneers of his town, especially of those men who from their scanty store builded the first school house. Lynde Walt was the fourth son of Richard Wait, son of Thomas Wait, Jr., son of Thomas Wait, who was born in England in 1671. Richard Wait's wife, Lucia Griswold, was great granddaughter of the first Matthew Griswold. Lynde Wait married Lois Wait, daughter of General Benjamin Wait, from whom Waitsfield took its name.

Their children in the order of their birth were Lucia, first child born in Fayston, Richard, John, Louisa, Avelyn, Lynde, Marvin, Sylvester and Courdand. Esquire Wait, as he was called, built the first frame house in town. He was a man of integrity, a christian of the Congregationalist form of faith and worship, and was trusted by his townsmen to do much official work. He removed to Wattsfield in Jan. 1821 and later to New York. Mrs. Walt was a very resolute woman, industrious and capable. At one time when alone with a scik neighbor she called help from two miles away, and it was a neighborhood joke on her son Richard, that she once called him home from his courting.

Rufus Barrett, second name on that subscription, came from Connecticut and settled on the farm where Samuel McLaughlin now lives. He built a frame house the same year that William Newcomb built one just above, but we have no date. Mr. Barrett was a public spirited man, a friend to the poor and fatherless, and a devont christian in 1832, then a resident of Waitsfield, he gave land for the cemetery, parsonage, and the Mr. E. church in Irasville.

Benjamin Lampson came from New Hampshire, in 1804. He located first on the farm where Alexander Dixon now lives, and always lived in town until his death.

Philemon Whitcomb and his wife, Harriet Brown, had a large family; Zelinda, who married Merrill Tyler, was the eldest. Abijah, Sally, who married John Kimball, Harriett, Philemon and Albert. He is one of the three early pioneers who is buried in the grave yard near by. The others are Gershom Brigham and Stephen Griggs.

Samuel Richardson lived on the road just west of John Livingston's. He raised a family of five sons; Carlton, Winslow, Chandler, George and Martin. Nothing remains of this homestead but the well. Benjamin Richardson, brother of Samuel Richardson, went west about the year 1842 and with his wife is buried in Forest Hill cemetery, Owatonas, Mine.

Elisha Green lived where Patrick Smith now resides. His children

the moved vest

were Lucy, Lydia and Perez. He sold his farm to Roe Allen, who later sold to Calvin Fullerton.

Gershom Brigham and family came from Winchester, N. H., and settled near Lynde Wair's, on the farm now owned by A. D. Bragg: the resided there until his death. His children were Leonard, Poly (Mrs. Carroll) Sarah, Elisha, Benjamin. Alvin, and Rebecca. His genealogy can be traced back to the parish of Brigham, Northumberland Co. Eneland.

land Co., England. Stephen Griggs was the third son of a revolutionary soldier, Solo-Stephen-mon Griggs, Englishman. His wife, Rhoda Bacon Smith, was the

oldest daughter of a veritable John Smith, from England, linen weaver. They came from Pomfret, Conn., to Fayston, in 1809, and their history is similar to that of many an ambitious, hardy pioneer in those early times. Mr. Griggs first started on foot to prospect for a desirable location on government land in New York. At a "tavern" where he stopped for a night, a man returning from Vermont gave such marvelous account of the fertility of the soil, the purity of the air, and the abundance of water-brooks full of trout, that Mr. Griggs changed his course and came here. He bought 80 acres where Howland Russell now lives, and soon had a clearing, a log house and a small barn. He moved his family and all his household goods on an ox sled, and bought one cow soon after his arrival. He raised corn, flax and wheat, made maple sugar from sap caught in troughs of his own hewing, set out apple trees, helped build roads and bridges, and was ever ready for every good work. The toils and privations of pioneer life were bravely met by them, as by others all around. After the memorable cold year of 1816, before grain was harvested the next year, Mrs. Griggs said that for six weeks she did not taste bread. Their "staff of life" was potatoes, eggs, milk and abundant berries. They had eight children. At the early age of 44 years Mr. Griggs died leaving the care of his family to his widow and oldest son, . I. C. Griggs, who nobly filled the trust.

David Randall lived near the school house and in other places, as he did not have any long abiding place. At one time when he lived where Fred Carroll now owns, the house was burned and his wife, who was sick in bed, was carried to the house of Morgan Wait, now James Erwin's, where she died in a few weeks. Mr. Randall was remarkable as a man who had seven wives, and could say from time to time as each one came to grace his home, she was better than her predecessors.

William Newcomb came to town quite early in its settlement, and built one of the second two frame houses, on the farm where George Pierce now resides. Here he and his wife remained until their death, being cared for in their declining years by their son, Hosea Newcomb.

Of Thomas L. Youngs, we have no record, except that he built that school house for \$159.75.

Charles Colt was a bachelor, and his widowed sister kept house for him, where John McCaughen now owns. He taught the school several winters, and his pupils, bent on mischief, used to "call the Colt with salt."

Owing to limited space but few of the later pioneers can receive the outcome which they richly deserve. Naturally our interest centers around the Lynde Wait house. The western part is the original frame. The inside work has been rearranged, and the whole structure wears a modern aspect. After Lynde Wait, it was owned by Theophilus Bisby, Henry McClure, Silas Boyce, George and Lawson Carroll, William Johnson, Alonzo Dyke, John McMullen, James Baird, and lasty by J. B. Thompson.

Theophilus Bixby was born in Lowell, Mass., July 1, 1771. He married Anna Fiske. Her mother, Anna Blood, was a dame of revolutionary times; and is buried in yonder resting place for the dead. Her father was one of the minute-men, who left his yoke of oxen in the plow field, when called to defend Boston from the British-knowing that his sister would unyoke and care for them.

They came first to Moretown Common, but in 1820, having sold his place there, Mr. Bisby contracted with General Benjainni Wait for his farm where the village of Waitsfield now stands. To pay for the same he was to care for General Wait the remaining years of his life. Before writings were made however, Mr. Bisby traded with Lynde Wait, whose wife was General Wait's own daughter, Lois, and he became owner of the intervale farm.

In those days men thought the hill farms better adapted to raising

wheat than river land. Mr. Bixby was deeply interested in school and church work, and the itinerant preacher of that day always found his house a home indeed. He now had eight children of school age. Royal Spaulding lived in one part of their house and taught the winter school. Luther was then five years old. Early one morning the great depth of snow which had accumulated on the roof of the house slid off. Mr. Spaulding was returning from building the schoolhouse fire. As he passed through the shed to his rooms he heard a faint groan from beneath the snow bank. A hasty glance at his own little flock assured him that they were all safe, and he quickly threw open Mr. Bixby's door, saying, "Are your children all here?" Mr. Bixby had just kneeled at the family altar for prayers. Alas! Luther was not there. With beating hearts and blanched faces, with fire shovel. barn shovel and trembling hands, men and boys worked to throw off the snow, and came first to a little shoe. Then with greatest care his head was first raised, and his breath came in gasps, and the child was saved. No bones were broken but he was very feeble a long time. The bank was measured and snow found to be four feet deep. and the doctor said he would not have risked his horse there.

In 1808, William and Paul Boyce, two Quakers, emigrated from Richmond, N. H., and settled near Beaver meadow on Shepherd's brook. This was the first "opening" in North Fayston. Paul Boyce married Rhoda Palmer of Waitsfield, and they lived to a ripe old age on the farm they first rescued from the wilderness, and are buried in the cemetery not far away. Their son, Ziba Wentworth Boyce resided in town until his death in 1877, aged 63. He received but a common school education while young, but by his own efforts, became a thorough scholar and taught school many terms. Later he served the town in various offices; he was a writer of marked ability. both in prose and verse, a talent inherited by his daughters, Mrs. Minerva Boyce of Waitsfield, and Mrs. Emogene Smith of Dubuque, Iowa, and also by the granddaughters, Mrs. Genie Norton, and Florence Josephine Boyce of Waitsfield. When Ziba W. Boyce was quite a young lad, his father sent him, with a younger brother, after the sheep; they failed to find them in the pasture. In the morning they found a few of them, eleven having been killed by wolves.

Elisha Brigham came to town with his parents. Gershom and Sarah Brigham, when but 17 years old. He remained with them on the homestead while they lived, and until his own death in 1863, aged 71 years. He toiled early and late, to bring the woodland acres into fertile meadow and pasture, and yearly saw the farm grow in size and productiveness. In every year we find his name among the officers of the town. He was leader and singer in social meetings and many at the present day remember his sacred songs. He was a praying, loving parent. And after his death it was said of him, that "he had not an enemy in the world." His wife, Sophronia Ryder died in 1876 aged 77 years. Just two days before her death, the old home which by industry she helped to build and furnish, was burned. She was borne to a neighbor's who resided on the Grigg's farm, and breathed her last in the very house from whence she went on her wedding day to be married, 50 years before. Mrs. Brigham was a woman of remarkable power, mental and physical, well fitted for pioneer life. Beside her work and the motherly care of 12 children, she often acted as nurse for the sick, and her very presence and touch seemed to bring healing. Dr. G. N. Brigham, Sarah Brigham Mansfield, and Laura Brigham Boyce, graceful writers of marked ability, were her children.

Elliot Porter was captain of the first militia company in town. He was born in Hartford, Vt., in 1785. He married Sydney Ward, daughter of Judge William Ward of Poultney, Vt., in 1811. They came to Fayston soon after and Mrs. Porter rode the whole distance no horse back. They labored with great diligence and perseverence to bring a productive farm from the wilderness. He had one of the finest apple orchards in town, raised from seeds of his own planting. They resided 60 years continuously on the farm where they made the first "opening." Captain Porter died at the age of 89 years, his wife at 86 years. They were kindly cared for in their old age by their youngest son, Walter, and his wife, Carrisa Boyce Porter, who received from them the homested.

Willard B. Porter, second son of Elliot Porter, was in every sense of the word, a "christian gentleman." He taught school, was town superintendent of schools, was elected town clerk at the age of 20

years in which capacity he served the town 33 years, represented the town in the legislature six terms, was town treasurer 14 years, was justice of the peace 30 years and united in marriage 86 couples. After the death of his esteemed wife he resided with his only child, Mrs. Tamor P. Boyce of Geddes, N. Y., until hedded July 16, 1885, aged 68 years. He is buried beside his wife in the cemetery in North Fayston.

Wilfred W. Porter, M. D., was born July 24, 1826. He was a very studious boy. At the early age of 15 he decided to study medicine. He worked on his father's farm in summer, and attended or taught school in winter. In 1834 he entered the office of Dr. G. N. Blain of Montpeller, as a student. He afterward attended a medical college at Woodstock and at Castleton, where he was graduated. He opened his office for practice of medicine in Geddes, N. Y., in 1853 and for 25 years was esteemed one of the leading physicians in central New York. He was also interested in educational matters, and was many years trustee of public schools; also was one of the first movers in the organization of a university at Syracuse, N. Y. He married Miss Jane Draper, daughter of Simeon and Clarissa Stone Draper, who died Jan. 31, 1883.

Eber H. Baxter and family came to town in 1831 and lived here 20 years. They had 14 children; one died in infancy. In 1851 they removed to Michigan with 10 children, the others remaining in Vermont. They took their places in the literary world as writers and poets; two sons are lawyers; the oldest son Albert, was for many years editor of the Grand Rapids Eagle in Michigan.

Nathan Boyce came from Richmond, N. H., in 1808 and settled on Shepherd's brook near school house No. 2. He and his wife, Zervish, lived on the farm until their death. Their son Jacob, born 1797, also resided on the same farm until his death in 1865 and was quite a prominent man. Three of his children are now living in town Dan, Maria (Mrs. Carroll.), and Mary, (Mrs. James P. Boyce.)

Samuel Dana moved to Fayston in the spring of 1845, with his wife, seven sons and two daughters. The house that he moved into was built of logs, 18x30 feet, and the roof was covered with spruce bark. It stood on the German Flats at the foot of the slide off of

1897, where Julius Hickory now lives. He cleared the land and built good farm buildings. When President Lincoln called for men to preserve the Union of our country, six of his sons enlisted in different regiments to serve as soldiers during the war, and all returned home at its close, honorably discharged, having given in all 12 years service. He died in Waitsfield aged 89 years.

E. W. Tucker and his wife, Jeanette Palmer, resided in town about 50 years. They had a remarkable love for home life, and home associations. It was a strong desire with them both that they might five and die on the old homestead, which wish was granted by a kind Providence. Less than a year since and within six weeks of each other they passed away from this life.

Seth Chase and wife, very early in the settlement of the town, also chose a hill farm, the one where John Maxwell now lives. He felled trees, burned coal in pits, cleared land, raised wheat and cattle and built a good house and barns. He had ten children. In 1864, he sold out and went west asso many Vermoni Gramers have offen. He located in Blooming Prairie, Minn., where he and his wife are now burled. He died at the advanced are of 20 years of the property of the set of the set

Eli Bruce was for a long time a resident of Fayston and did a large amount of business for the town. He was justice of the peace many years and was representative in the legislature several times. He married a daughter of William Sherman. Their daughter was the first serson burded in the cemeter at North Fayston.

Many of the early settlers were of Scotch-Irish descent, intelligent, well educated and thrifty; they emigrated from the north of Ireland.

Among these we mention Deacon Samuel Strong, Deacon James McAllister, Richard Strong, Joseph, Thomas and George Somerville, John Long, James, Thomas and Alexander Maxwell, John, William, Henry and Robert Kew, Thomas Ferris, James Thompson, John and James McCaughin, James Baird and his sons, William, John and James, Jr., John McMullen, James Baird 5th, Samuel McLaughlin, John Patterson and Patrick Smith; the last two are now living at the age of 82 and 83 years. Of those who came from other parts of Ireland we name John McCarty, William Carey, John Kelty, Daniel Hagan and James Neill.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES.

That the settlers were men and women of christian character, and unbiased by sectarianism is shown by the fact that religious services were held in their dwellings and in the school houses. In March 1821, "The Fayston Union society" was organized, "for the purpose of supporting and settling a minister." The founders of this society were, James Selleck, Stephen Griggs, Elisha Brigham, Alvin Brigham, David Randall, Theophilus Birby, Luman Simonds, Phillemon Whitcomb, Merrill Tyler, Solomon Brown, Samuel Richardson, Beijaman Richardson, Silas Kneeland, John Colt, Leonard Brigham, Joseph Green, Thomas Green, Joseph Barnes, William Newcomb, Shephen Dana, Joseph R. Allen, Silas Wheeler, John Marble and Stephen Laws. The minister "supported and settled" by this society was Jotham Carpenter, who received the lot of land sequestered to the use of the first settled minister.

On March 12, 1838 a Congregational society was organized "For the purpose of settling a minister and erecting a meeting house." The first meeting was to be held in school house No. 3. Unfortunately the records do not give the names of the signers of the constitution, but we are informed by old members, that among their number were James Sellick, Arba Durkee, Z. W. Boyce, Joseph Somerville, James Meallister, Samuel Strong and their wives; James Meallister and Samuel Strong were the deacons, and the minister settled was a Rev. Mr. French who lived in a part of Deacon Strong's house, where M. S. Strong, his son, now lives. This society later joined with the Congregational church in Waitsfield.

The Protestant Methodist church was organized April 26, 1838.

"For the purpose of supporting a minister," but here also the names of the organizers are omitted from the records, but we learn that Elisha Brigham, Calvin Grandy, Silas Wheeler and David Randall were among their names.

About the year 1825, while South Fayston was a part of Montpelier circuit, which also included Middlesses. Moretown, Waitsfield and Warren, Salmon Glesson taught school in No. 1, in the winter and 25 of his older pupils became christians. Rev. S. D. Cohoon was the directly practice. In 1834 we find 33 names recorded in a "time friend practice" in 1834 we find 33 names recorded in a "time friend practice.

book" as members of the Methodist church, who met weekly in social meeting if practicable. Rev. Nathan Howe, and Rev. Enos G. Page were the circuit preachers. The class was, and is now, a part of the M. E. church of Waitsfield and Fayston.

A Reformed Presbyterian society was formed about the year 1850. The leading members were Samuel Strong, John Long, James Baird and Andrew Gillies of Moretown, Revs. N. R. Johnston of Togsham, James Beattie of Ryegate, R. Z. Wilson, J. A. Armour and other Covenanter ministers preached occasionally in shool house No. 3 and also in No.1. When they had no preaching, meetings and Sunday schools were held, where principles of godliness and Calvinism, in the fullest meaning of the term were incultated. After the death of these worthy men, many of their offspring united with the churches in Watisfield.

The North Methodist society was organized Dec. 2, 1865, "For the purpose of drawing public modey for the support of the gospel." This society is supplied with preaching at the present time, by the pastor of the M. E. church in Waitsfield. But at the time of its formation, in 1865, it was a part of Moretown charge. Rev. Lemuel C. Power, pastor, was a zealous worker in the vineyard of the Master, especially in Sunday school, and some 15, persons were converted that year.

In March 1870 the first Freewill Baptist church was organized by Rev. D. S. Frost of Huntington. There were 15 members. They chose Rev. John F. Buzzell, pastor; J. D. Marble and Marvin Davis deconomy, and Stephen Johnson, clerk. John F. Buzzell preached to the company of the Sabbath for several years, and was an acceptable pastor.

But why longer dwell on the past? Let us treasure and imitate their virtues, and look to the present, remembering that it was said in olden time "other men have labored and ye have entered into their labors."

James P. Boyce is the oldest man fiving in town who was born here. He has held many town offices, and represented the town in the legislature in 1886-7. He has killed more bears than any other man in this vicinity.

Dan Boyce, oldest son of Jacob Boyce, is one who has made 'intense farming' and market gardening a success financially. He has filled nearly all the town offices, and also been elected to the Assembly.



Sitas W. Fisher was born in Thoraton N. H., in 1804. He came to Montpet and in 1828 he bought a farm, all wood-land, in N. Fayston. He cleared one acre, built a log house, and fish 1829, he married Miss Emily Peck of Montpelier. The toils and grintons of pioneer life were bravely met. and, working to gether, they soon acquired a competence, and owned a fertile grain feether, and the soon acquired a competence, and owned a fertile grain feether, and the soon acquired a competence, and owned a fertile grain feether, and the soon of the soon o



Joins Peyes Browne was born in Ireland, Nov. 30, 1816, but was of English descent. His father, Richard Browne, was a brother of Fehcia Browne Hemans, the English potests. His mother, Harrier Iyne Browne, was a daughter of the Earl of Waterpark, Essex, England. He completed his education at Trinity college in the city of Dublin. He came to America and married Margaret Welsh in 1851. He soon located in Fayston and was ever active and interested in the welfare of his town, faithfully filling many of the most important offices. He died June 5, 1898.



S. J. DANA is a manufacturer of clapboards and shingles. He has denearly all the town offices, has been town clerk 17 years, and represented the town in 1873-3. He enlisted Sept. 8, 1862, was mustered in Oct. 10, 1862 and was mustered out July 21, 1863 at the expiration of his term of service. He was wounded by a shell in the left arm at the battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863.



A. D. Bragg has the largest farm and dairy in town and has always taken an active part in the management of town affairs. He represented the town in 1870-1. He has been lister 25 years, and six years at the quadrennfal appraisal of real estate, and collector 13 years.



Joins MAXWELL is one of the men who has made farming a success. About 25 years ago he bought the Seth Chase farm and time has demonstrated that all prosperity does not consist in "going west, young man." Besides raising a large family, Mr. Maxwell has made of the property of the proper



Joun B. Thompson, farmer, came to Fayston from Ireland when but a lad. He was educated in the common schools, Washington County Grammar school and Bare academy, and has always that an active part in the educational affairs of the town. He has been a successful teacher, having taught 20 winter terms and has been superintendent of schools 21 years. He has also held many other town offices and represented the town in the legislature in 1885-0.



M. S. Strong, who lives on the farm where he was born 62 years ago, is one of the largest farmers in town, and perhaps no one stands higher in the esteem of his townsmen. He has held various offices and represented the town in 1874-5.



T. C. McCarty is a lumber manufacturer and farmer, who represented the town in 1892-3 and is now selectman and school director.



Francis Azro Bragg, born in Warren in 1856, is a farmer, has held the office of auditor, selectman and lister, and is now road commissioner and treasurer. He represented the town in 1856 and in 1897-8 when there was a special session called by Gov. Grout.



HOWARD BILLINGS HOWE, Co. G, 1st Vt. Regiment.



C. D. BILLINGS, son of Rufus and Hannah Billings, was born in Windsor, Vt., Dec. 17, 1817, He came to Warren, Vt., with his parents when quite young, and in 1842, married Almira Royce; they had six children, only four of whom are now living. James J., of Morrisville, Vt., William H., Waterbury, Almira, wife of E. A. Duesas, George N., who now owns his father's large lumber business in this town. Mr. Billings had indomitable will power and energy of purpose in businesses. His lumber mills were wrice burned out, but were quickly rebuilt and prosperity crowned his efforts with success. When Mr. Billings and a boy friend, Christopher Moore, were about 17 years of age they found a bear had been caught in a bear trap in the woods. Bruin showed fight of course, when Mr. Billings gave him such a vigorous slap on the side of his head, that it apparently took the courage out of him. They then unhitched the trap and

Moore took one ear of the bear, Billings the other ear, and started for home. The bear once slipped away from Moore, striking him home are the striking him of his shirt, but with good courage he grappled him again, and thus they led that bear about one mile to the road. He was then taken to town where dogs and boys worried noor Brain till life was a burden.

E. A. Fisk, farmer, moved to town recently from Waltsfield. He was a soldier in the twar for the Union. He has been school direction of the continuous of the continuous of a rata generates at three Centennial celebrations; for the town of Waltsfield, the Congregational church in Waltsfield and the town of Faxston.

STEPHEN JOHNSON, Union soldier, carpenter and builder, has long been prominent in town affairs, having been lister many years, town representative in 1882-3, school director and justice of the peace.

FRED C. CARROLL is a successful farmer, who has held the office of lister and superintendent of schools. He is now town representative.

R. A. Maxwell is also a successful farmer, who is now selectman and school director.

E. J. Long is a coming young business man, is a successful farmer and has been selectman three years.

ALLEN S. Howe has a fine intervale farm on Shepherd's brook and has been constable and held other town offices.

HOLLIS MEHURON, who lives at the foot of the slide, has long been known as one of the solid farmers of the town. He has served as selectman and represented the town in the legislature in 1894-5.

WAR RECORD.

John Cloud lived in a small house near school house. No. 1. about the year 1840. He was in many engagements in the Revolutionary war. In his last battle, while leading a retreat and firing back, he was shot through the thigh, which had to be amputated. He was ancestor of Sergeant G. O. Boyce, of Montpelier, and of Sergeant Clayton B. Boyce, soldier in 1st. Vermont regiment in the recent war with Spain.

William Phenn was in the campaigns of the Duke of Wellington. About the year 1837 he located in a sheltered spot in district No. 1. and even to this day our local lumberman speak of the "Phenn cellar" as on their route to their timber lots. From him "Phenn brook," noted for its abundance of speckled trout, takes its name,

Joseph Marble was born Nov. 24, 1752. He married Susannah Butler. They came from Winchester, N. H., to North Fayston in 1800 and built the first sawmill in Fayston. He served in the war of the Revolution and the powder horn which he then carried is still in the possession of his descendants. Jesse Mix, William Wait and Mrs. Hutchinson were Revolutionary pensioners.

William Bragg was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was in service at the defense of New London, Conn. He received a land warrant from the government in 1858. He died at the home of his son, A. D. Bragg in 1864, aged 74 years.

Joseph Marble, Jr., came to North Fayston in 1800 from Winchester, N. H., and resided here until his death in 1877. He was in the war of 1812

Fayston had no less than 64 soldiers in the civil war who responded to their country's call in '61 and '62. We can look upon our military record with feelings of pride and satisfaction. The following list of names of soldiers in order of enlistment is taken from Hemenway's Vermont Historical magazine, Washington county, page 194:

Thomas Maxwell, Mark Chase, Luther Chase, George Somerville, John H. Hunter, George L. Marble, William M Strong, Allen E. Mehuron, Cornelius McMullen, Henry C. Backus, Warren C. Porter, Chester S. Dana, LaFavette Moore, Heman A. Moore, Eli Gilson, Lewis Bettis, John Chase, Nathan Thaver, Nelson J. Boyce, Lester H. Harris, George O. Boyce, Dorrie S. Stoddard, William E. Backus, John Bairl, Matthew Blair, Charles D. Billings, Chaucey Carpenter, Samuel J. Dana, Royal S. Haskins, Charles C. Ingalls, Stephen Johnson, Ziba H. McAllister, Levi Nelson, William Nelson, Daniel Possnet, Winfield S. Rich, Reuben Richardson, William O. Wilkins, Robert Hoffman, John W. Palmer, Judson W. Richardson, Charles C. Dyke, Myron Mansfeld, Benj. B. Johnson, Wm. Johnson, Charles B. Covilis, Anson O. Brigham, Calvin B. Marble, Edwin E. Chaffee, Aas E. Colfiss, John W. Ingalls, Andrew J. Butler, Hiland G. Campbell, Albee B. Durkee. Timothy Donovan, Edward Dillon, G. W. Fisher, James N. Ingalls, Robert Maxwell, Samuel Maxwell, Wm. W. McAllister, James H. Somerville, Ichabod Thomas and Dexter Marble.

These names of the living and the dead, are cherished with reverence and high esteem, for each one did his part to keep the grand old flag still floating over a free and undivided country.

And Fayston paid her war tax year by year, leaving no debt for her sons to raise later.

In the "war for humanity's sake," the war with Spain, which has agitated the country the present year, we have one soldier boy and we are proud to record his name, Howard Howe, Company G, 1st. Vt. Regiment, son of William and Isabell Billings Howe.

ACCIDENTS.

George Beetle was shot by the accidental discharge of a gun in 1831-2.

Robert John McMullen, son of John and Jane McMullen, four years old, was killed by a cart body tipping over on him.

Robert McAllister was killed by the fall of a tree in 1852.

Jonathan Marble was killed by the fall of a tree in June, 1861.

Ziba Boyce was caught on a revolving shaft in the mill, and instantly killed.

Lewis Goss jumped from a wagon with his gun in his hand and was shot by its discharge.

George Griffith was kicked by a colt and died from internal injuries.

In 1841 Carlton Richardson was fatally injured while at work in

the woods. His oxen were drawing a log with a chain, when it struck a root causing the team to stop so suddenly that the horn of one ox struck Mr. Richardson, causing internal injuries from which he died.

In the winter of 1858, four men went onto the mountain near the notch to cut clapboard logs. They were Dana Davis, Lorenzo Grandy, Edwin Dana and Martin Mansfield. While extricating a tree that had become "lodged," Dana Davis' leg was caught and crushed in a horrible manner. An undershirt was torn into strips and the limb bandaged as well as possible to stop the flow of blood, and the three uninjured men brought him in their arms nearly two miles to the nearest house. When it was necessary for them to stop and rest, one of their number would lie down on the snow, for it was an intensely cold day, and the wounded man was laid on him. Medical aid was summoned, his parents were sent for, and everything done possible to alleviate his terrible sufferings but he died in a few hours from loss of blood and exhaustion. The next night a wild animal, probably a lynx, followed the trace of blood from the mountain to the house where he was carried in, and resting its fore feet on a window sill, was seen looking into the house.

Adam Gilson fell from a load of wood and was instantly killed.

LOST CHILDREN.

Children were sometimes lost in the woods where roads were obscure or perhaps only bridle-paths. -In 1830 a little daughter of William Marston, four years old, living in the north part of the town wandered on and on; she came out at one Carpenter's in Huntington, having swent a day and a night in the woods.

Jonathan Nelson had a boy and a girl lost in the woods in 1842. The boy was 12 years of age, the girl younger. They were found on

the second day unharmed, near Camel's Hump.

In 1847 an alarm was sent through the town and adjoining towns that Irax Wheeler, four years old, did not return from school the day before. The neighbors searched all day without finding the little fellow and many more joined them the second day with no better success. On the third day men for miles around, with provisions to that for a time, collected to work until he was found if possible. In

the afternoon he was indeed found, alive and not much alarmed apparently, though he said the wanted to go to Mr. Porter's and get some bread and milk."

HURRICANES, FRESHETS AND LAND SLIDES,

In 1841 there was a severe tornado in Fayston and Waitsfield. It commenced on the height of land in the middle of this town, and was accompanied with lightning and thunder. Many acres of woodland were prostrated.

A more general tornado. devastating many towns in Washington county, occurred in 1866, and is well remembered by many at the present day. Though of short duration, houses were unroofed and some barns blown down.

In 1830 occurred what was known as the "great freshet." Buildings and bridges were swept away.

In July 1858 there was a very destructive freshet. At 7 o'clock in the afternoon, the workmen in a mill owned by Campbell & Grandy were waiting for the low stream of water to fill up the flume, so that they might work the mill. At 9 o'clock, so sudden was the rise of water, the whole mill with its machinery had gone down the stream. Every bridge between Fayston and Middlesex, but one, was swept away.

In the freshet of 1869, several bridges were swept away and a mill rebuilt on the site of the one owned by Campbell & Grandy was again carried out. This one was owned by Richardson & Rich.

There have been several land slides on the eastern slope of the Green mountains; though they may have started in Warren or Lincoln, they surely landed in Fayston.

The first one was in 1812. The longest slide occurred June 28, 1827. There had been a heavy rain for some days. The noise and roar of the slide was heard for miles. A party of a dozen men visited the place on the next fourth of July and reported the length of the slide from the top to the turn zoo rods, and from the turn to lower end 280 rods; greatest width, 24 rods. There was a jam of naked timber piled up at the lower end. 15 or 20 feet deep, for a long distance. There was another one in 1840.

The most remarkable slide was on July 14, 1897. After a copious

shower which lasted the whole night and most of the early morning a heavy, roaring sound was heard a long distance and for a long time. Those living near "slide off brook" soon saw a tremendous mass of floating trees, rocks and mud coming down the stream. It cleared a wide channel in its course as it went on its way of destruction. Bridges, flumes and meadow land were swept away by its resistless current. Before the summer was over thousands of people from all about the country had visited its wonderful course.

MANUFACTURES.

S. J. Dana & Son have a shingle mill on Mill brook capable of turning out 1.000,000 of shingles annually. They have also machinery for sawing clapboards and manufacture 300,000 feet each eyear.

JOHN A. GRANFIELD is the largest lumberman in town and furnishes employment for a large number of men.

G. N. Billings' clapboard mill on Mill brook, was built by his father, C. D. Billings. He turns out about 600,000 feet of clap-boards annually.

Hugh Baird owns a clapboard mill near the mountain on Mill brook. He manufactures 200,000 feet of clapboards a year.

Calvin Mehuron has the honor of building the first steam mill in town. He saws about 250,000 feet of lumber yearly.

John Chase owns and works a shingle mill on Chase brook.

In North Fayston, Edgar A. Davis manufactures about 300,000 feet of clapboards and Merton Davis, his son, 400,000 feet in the same mill.

NOTES. There is a fine ledge of talc, or freestone in town, joining the quar-

ries which have been leased to parties for working by John Bisbee and George Folsom in Waitsfield and owned by them.

Within the limits of school district No. 1, in 1840, there were 22 homes, now there are but 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Smith celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Nov. 21, 1893.

Hannah Chaffee Durkee, the oldest person in town, was born in Williamstown, Vt., Oct., 1808.

On the old Calvin Grandy farm, now owned by Robert A. Maxwell, there is a quarry of strong, clear limestone. Mr. Grandy burned marketable lime there, several years.

There is a beautiful Barre granite water tub in rock finish design, weighing about two tons, beside the highway in "Morgan woods," on Shepherd's brook. Water from a cold spring near by keeps it full. It was formally presented to the town in January 1898, by Mrs. Clara D. Brown Miller of Boston, in memory of her deceased sisters, Harriett, Isabel and Mary Browne.

Sylvester Mather Wait, son of Lynds Wait, and founder of Waitsburg, Washington, prichased the landsite of Elberton, in 1889. He is one of the noted pioneers of Washington. He gives especial prominence to Elberton, as a prohibition town. In each deed for town property is inserted a clause which forever debars the buyers, their heirs or assigns from ever dealing in spirituous linguors.

Miss Sarah Griggs is the oldest person living in Fayston, who was born here. She temembers seeing Mr. and Mrs. Lynde Walt, and relates many items of interest about the -pioneers and pioneers life. Other persons who were born in town 60 years or more ago and still residents are Dan Boyce, Mrs. Maris Boyce Carroll, James P. Bock, Mrs. Susan (Quimby) Marble, Mrs. Zelinda (Quimby) Marble, Mrs. Priscilla (Lampson) Mehuron and Mrs. Anna B. (Griggs) Bragg.

In closing this historical sketch we are conscious of incompleteness in many pages and in many biographies, but we are confident that it is comparatively correct and it has been a gratification and pleasure to record facts and incidents that otherwise might never be known to the generations of the newcentury of the town of Fayston.

In preparing this paper, the writer gratefully acknowledges much assistance from Hemenway's Historical Magazine and Child's Gazetteer.



By D. S. STODDARD, Emporia, Kan.

I little was thinking that any would ask, From such as your servant the metrical task Of tuning his muse in poetical flow, In commemoration of years long ago.

I knew that this year was the hundredth in time, Since Fayston was settled by Wait known as Lynde, But poets in scores have been born near the place Where Fayston commenced in her civilized race.

Then why should your servant so far in the West Be asked for a verse at Fisk Edward's behest? He knew I was born down in Mad river vale And after had lived in Mill brook's narrow dale.

And are man live in will brook's narrow date. As Fayston's adopted, and well honored son, Completing a manhood that Waitsfield begun, Still knowing of nativus so many, so nigh, Why should he have asked the adopted to try?

But let that all pass my dear friends here today Forgive if you please that in my feeble way, I simply shall tell you how I would rejoice To force you to list to my own measured voice

When these rhyming strains in your hearing are read. But that fond infliction no more you need dread, For seventeen hundred long miles do but lay Betwixt you and me this centennial day.

Imagination dim now, carries me back— I see the dense forest with never a track, But foot prints of Indians, the wolf and the bear, The lynx and the wild cat disturbed in their lair.

I see the first settler with gun and with axe, His courage and strength to their utmost to tax, To how down the forest and make logs roll, For how for the body and rest for the soul.

The log house he builded, the wife there content, To gain honest living her energies bent, There civilization of Fayston took root, And grew from this homelike historical spot.

Now fond recollection begins to have sway, I saw the dense forest was clearing away. And neighbors had settled, some here and some there, All over these bills and these valleys so fair.

And changes were made for here was McLure (Not back of that date can my mem'ry endure), And Bixby and Newcomb and Tyler I know, Were living to southward, all three in a row.

And Brigham was west where were poets galore, Some now are this side, some are over the shore, And Gilson and Mansfield and Bixby and Brown, With Griggs and Richardsons further on down.

And on the north side away over the hill Were Boyces and Porters and some are there still, And Marbles and Fishers and Bruces were there, Each found in their places and doing their share.

Her schoolhouses grew as her children increased, Where each youth and maiden could mentally feast Until in the course of encycling time, They counted from one to the number of nine.

When war's wild alarm o'er the country was rung And hundreds of men to her rescue quick sprung, There Fayston was found with her sons in the fight To keep her proud record untarnished and bright.

Thus Fayston has grown to her hundredth full year, Her sons and her daughters now gathering here Can backward reflect with commendable pride, On those who settled this pleasant hillside.

Let happiness fill every heart here today, Rejoice and be glad as we pass on our way, Let's emulate deeds of our ancestors bold, Who shrank at no danger—those settlers of old.

Teach children to love both the town and the State, To try to climb high, mid the good and the great, Be true to the right and as firm ever stand As mountains around us so lofty and grand.

The breezes that sweep o'er these mountain tops high, The grand forest trees that point up to the sky, The orchards and gardens and meadows so bright, Combine to inspire all our hearts with delight. To Fayston, our mother, our tribute we bring, And gladly in chorus thy praises we'll sing; And parting at night we will everyone say, No town in Vermont is its equal today.

CENTENNIAL ODE.

BY LAURA BRIGHAM BOYCE.

The tocsin sounds, yet no alarms Of blaring bugle, roll of drum Is this, that bids the wanderers come, On peaceful errand o'er the farms. 'Tis but the mother's tender call, To bring her scattered children home; As near or far they chance to roam, And draw them hither one and all. To celebrate her glad birthday-Our mother is no longer young, Howe'er her beauties may be sung, She's rounded out her century Of busy years; in green old age She stands in smiling verdure drest, This gala day she dons her best, Turns her new century's spotless page. Call back, O Time, for us today, Thy buried years, and let us stand In fancy, with the stalwart band Whose courage, vigor, blazed the way To fertile farm, and happy home. Where tassled corn waves in the breeze. Stood birch and maple, giant trees, That had the woodman's axe ne'er known. Ah, 'twas a task for men of brawn, To hew the stately forest down, To build new homes, the streets, the town. Their tasks begun at early morn Nor yet concluded till the eve; These sturdy toilers knew the way To prosper, was to do each day

Its work, nor till the morrow leave.

We stand where the first settler stood, And marked his homestead lot to clear; The first frame house he builded here In all the town; still firm and good

It stands today, though long ago
The builder passed beyond the gate
Where all must go; the name of Wait
And legend lore is most we know,

For all his kin are far away.

Not long the other pioneers

Lingered behind him; he who clears

The virgin forest finds full sway

For brawn and pluck, and that they had A goodly store. Yonder's the spot My grandsire called his homestead lot; My sire, sixteen, a sturdy lad

Came with him from an older State, Where wondrous tales to them had come Of this new Eldorado; none Need have a fear to emigrate,

So rich and fertile was the soil, So bounteous nature's fruitful store, Roast pig ran squealing to the door, Crying "eat me, eat me;" who would toil

On old New Hampshire's rocky strand With such far better goal in view? Not grandsire, he began anew To build a home in this rich land,

And clear the forest from his door; But on roast pig he ne'er could dine Till much good care had made it fine, Just as it erst had been before:

In yonder grave-yard's quiet shade, Rests Grandsire with his wife beside, She living after he had died, Saw where their children's children played.

They all are gone those pioneers Whose brawny arm's persistent toil, Wrung competence from virgin soil, And we, their children's children here On this, the first centennial day, Their virtues would commemorate, Do honor while we celebrate, To those who long have passed away.

We're growing old, the care-lined brow, And whitening locks show that we too Must soon pass on; our children do The work our hands are holding now.

So generations come and go. The years go on, and on, and climb The centuries in their march sublime. But whither, who may know?

A CENTURY.

BY MARION M. DANA.

We meet, dear friends, to celebrate This, our centennial day, To review the things that through the years Have swiftly passed away.

'Twas here our fathers bravely toiled, While wild beasts round them roamed, Cleared the forest, and tilled the soil, To build themselves a home.

We see the troubles through which they passed, Their sorrow, want and fears, The loneliness of life like theirs, Their hopes, and joys, and tears.

And gently let the curtain fall O'er lives like their's, now passed, Though we will ever them revere While our old town shall last.

And as we meet in our native place While the autumn sun looks down, We'll praise the Power above us all, That made and preserved our town. Friday, Sept. 16, 1898 was the day observed as the centennial of the settlement of the town of Fayston by Lynde Wait. The day was fair. The school directors had kindly given all the schools a boliday. About five hundred people gathered early on the grounds of J. B. Thompson, with one wowns the firm first opened a century ago. The seats and speakers' stand were arranged in the yard, ben ath fine, old maple trees.

PROGRAM.

Song.

My Country 'Tis of Thee
By the Choir. Mrs. G. R. Miller, Gertie Strong, Anna L.
Bragg, F. A. Bragg, Orlando Davis, W. C.

Bragg; Emily B. Johnson, Organist. Prayer, Rev. S. F. Noon Address of Welcome I. B. Thompson Song, The Old Home. Miss Anna L. Bragg Reading Town Charter. S. I. Dana Original Poem, Miss Marion Dana Recitation. Miss Lura Eaton Recitation. Mass Gertie Strong Poem.

Poem, Mrs. Laura Brigham Boyce
Music, Waitsfield Cornet Band
SOCIAL HOUR AND DINNER

Music, Waitsfield Cornet Band
Recitation, Miss Emily Maxwell
Recitation, Master Howard Long
Poem, D. S. Stoddard of Emporia, Kan.

Read by his daughter, Mrs. C. F. Eddy of Waitsfield.

Historical Sketch, Mrs. A. B. Bragg
Read by her husband, A. D. Bragg, Esq.

Music, Waitsfield Cornet Band
Letter from J. Gale, a former resident,
Short Speeches.

Waitsfield Cornet Band
Read by S. J. Dana, Esq.

A. A. Kneeland of Waitsfield, F. S. Porter of Northfield, Dea. E. A. Fisk of Fayston.

Singing by all, God be With You Till We Meet Again.

Waitsfield Cornet Band

Sketch of the Author.

MRS. ANNA B Braco, daughter of John C. and Lydia Bixby Griggs, was born in Fayston, March 17, 1837, and with the exception of five years has always lived in her native town. She has ever been esteemed as a bright, intelligent lady, a faithful teacher, always interested in educational, philantropic and temperance work, an earnest christian and active worker in the M. E. church of which she has long been an honored nember. For her patriotic labor in gratuitously writing this brief history for the benefit of this and future generations, her memory will ever be cherished by her grateful fellow citizens.